

"STRIGHT-UP" PROGRAM HAILED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to four outstanding constituents of mine who have made a real contribution to fighting drugs in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Gene Fischl, Al Ottensman, Paul O'Malia, and David Stefanoski.

These four men are the founders of an anti-drug initiative called the "Straight-Up" program that involves prisoners at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility travelling to area high schools and colleges to tell students about life in prison and how drugs ruined their lives and led to their incarceration. The detailed, first-person stories conveyed by these prisoners can convey a powerful message to teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse. Given rising concern in Northeastern Pennsylvania and throughout the nation about the perils of teenage drug abuse, this sort of innovative program is an eminently worthy endeavor.

The "Straight-Up" program could not have survived since April of 1996 were it not for the dedicated work of Luzerne County Correctional Facility Warden Gene Fischl, and Sergeant David Stefanoski, Lieutenant Al Ottensman, and Lieutenant Paul O'Malia of the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Their efforts have already affected over 21,000 Luzerne County youth. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring their accomplishment to the attention of my colleagues and I wish them and the "Straight-Up" program future success.

 TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY WARREN
BLAKEMAN, JR.
HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Blakeman is Senior Minister of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Monroe, Louisiana. He has been minister of churches in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and most recently, Senior Minister of the 3,000 member Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Shreveport where services were broadcast each Sunday over Television Channel 3. He has also been District Superintendent of the New Orleans and North Shore Districts.

He has served on the Board of Pendleton Methodist Hospital and is currently on the Board of the Louisiana Methodist Foundation. He has directed various civic financial drives and is a consultant for the Biedenharn Bible Museum and Research Center.

Dr. Blakeman collects antiquarian books and manuscripts (dating back to 1247 AD), classic mystery fiction and enjoys classical music. His library contains over 5,000 volumes.

He is married to Mary Lou who is a prison psychologist (specialist degree) and they have three children, Jeff, Jennifer and Julie, and one granddaughter, Katie.

 TRIBUTE TO DR. HERATCH
DOUMANIAN
HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's leading physicians, Dr. Heratch Doumanian, of Merrillville, Indiana. On Sunday, September 30, 1998, Heratch will be honored by the Asian American Medical Society for his selfless, exemplary service to society, the community, and the medical profession. This Sunday, for his dedicated, consistent community work, Heratch will be awarded the Crystal Globe Award, the Asian American Medical Society's highest service award.

Each year, the Asian American Medical Society honors a prominent, extraordinary resident of Northwest Indiana for their outstanding contributions to the community. In recognition of their tremendous efforts for the betterment of Northwest Indiana, they are honored at a banquet and awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe.

This year's recipient, Dr. Heratch Doumanian, is one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. As a physician, Heratch serves as not only a respected member of the medical community, but also as a teacher, a mentor, and a community volunteer. He offers his services and time to many professional organizations including the Radiologic Society of North America, the American Medical Society, the Lake County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society, the American College of Radiology, and the Asian American Medical Society. In addition, Heratch served as the President of St. Mary's Medical staff in 1995, is a present member of the St. Mary's Medical Quality Assurance Committee, and served as the President of the Asian American Medical Society in 1988.

Since 1966, Heratch has served as a Radiologist at both the Diagnostic Outpatient Center, and the St. Mary Medical Center. In addition, he shares his knowledge as a teacher at the Indiana University Northwest Medical School. Before starting his work in 1966, Heratch attended the American University, in Beirut, Lebanon, and in 1957 he graduated from its Medical School. After graduation, Dr. Doumanian came to the United States and completed two Internships in Chicago, Illinois, at the St. Bernard Hospital from 1957-1958, and the Michael Reese Medical Center from 1959-1960. In 1960-1962, Heratch served our country as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. After his military service, he completed a Residency at the University of Chicago Hospital, and he earned a Fellowship from the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When his Fellowship ended in 1966, he moved to Northwest Indiana and began his successful medical and community work for the people of this region.

While Heratch has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work as a physician, he has always made an extra effort to give to the community. He is currently very involved in the Armenian Assembly of America, and serves the organization as a Fellow Trustee. Additionally, he is a Parish Council Member of the St.

Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, and is a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Chicago Chapter. Although his work and community service often limits his time, Heratch has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife, Sonya, have three children: Greta, a lawyer; John, a medical student; and Leo, also a medical student.

The Hippocratic Oath discusses how a doctor or medical professional should conduct his life, public and private. "... I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honour; that into whatsoever house I shall enter, I shall be for the good of the sick to the utmost of my power, holding myself far aloof from wrong, from corruption..." When Heratch moved to Northwest Indiana in 1966, he brought with him a dedication to uprightness and honor that has touched many lives. His dedication to the community and his family, in addition to his commitment to the unfortunate and sick are clear examples of one man working to the utmost of his power and ability. We in Northwest Indiana are lucky to be the recipients of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Heratch Doumanian for receiving the 1998 Crystal Globe Award from the Asian American Medical Society. Truly, Heratch has earned this recognition. His service, dedication, and altruism inspire us all to greater deeds.

 IN HONOR OF HIS HOLINESS POPE
SHENOUDA III
HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Orthodox Church to the United States and specifically the New Jersey/New York region.

The Coptic Church is responsible for many contributions to Christianity, including the Nicene Creed which is today recited by Christian churches around the world and thousands of biblical and theological texts produced by the early Coptic Church. Today those texts are valued by historians and theologians alike.

Pope Shenouda III is a profound theologian, an eloquent preacher, an accomplished author, and an able leader of Christian unity. Before his consecration as Pope, His Holiness was a successful student, a charismatic teacher, and a pious monk.

Since his consecration in 1971, Pope Shenouda III has led the Coptic Orthodox Church to a world-wide resurgence. In North America alone, the Coptic Church has established over 70 new churches in the last twenty years.

Pope Shenouda III has traveled around the globe in the interest of Christian unity. In 1973, His Holiness was the first Coptic Pope to visit the Vatican in over 1,500 years. His Holiness has also kept in close contact with sister Orthodox churches with visits to Constantinople, Moscow, Romania, Bulgaria, and Antioch. Pope Shenouda III has also advanced relations with many Protestant churches as shown by his dialogue with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in 1993.